

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 6, 2004. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23, and 25-30 are presented for examination. Claims 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, and 24 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, 23, and 25-30 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 2, 10, and 18 have been amended as to matters of form only. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by at least these latter changes. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27 and 29 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

Claims 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,321,258 (*Stollfus et al.*); and Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,473,783 (*Goshey et al.*) in view of *Stollfus et al.*

As shown above, Applicant have amended independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27 and 29 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicant submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of independent Claims 1, 9, and 17 will be addressed first.

The aspect of the present invention as set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of

information processing apparatuses, each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by at least one other information processing apparatus through the network system. The information apparatus includes management means for managing information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network managed by the information processing apparatus, reception means for receiving, from another information processing apparatus, information of the plurality of shared devices used by the other information processing apparatus. The received information includes information of the plurality of shared devices comprising an updated status and a connected condition. The apparatus also includes recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means. The information processing apparatus also includes renewal means for updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the shared device managed by the other information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the shared device updated by the renewal means and the information of the plurality of shared devices managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means, updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the shared device managed by the other information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and

displaying (a) the information on the status or the connected condition of the shared device updated by the renewal means and (b) the information of the plurality of shared devices managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means.

Goshey et al. relates to a system for sharing peripheral devices over a network. The system includes a first computer having at least one peripheral device, and a second computer that is networked to the first computer. The second computer is configured to send a request to use the at least one peripheral device over the network, and the request is processed to determine whether the second computer has sharing privileges to use the at least one peripheral device. The first computer is configured to grant access to the request of the second computer if the second computer has the sharing privileges that enable access to the at least one peripheral device. The first computer acts as a server that can share its peripheral devices, and the second computer acts as a client that accesses the server's peripheral devices.

Goshey et al. discusses obtaining information shown in Table B of column 8, and displaying the information. *Goshey et al.*, however, fails to teach or suggest allowing an information processing apparatus to display the updated information of a plurality of shared devices.

Further, the Office Action states that *Goshey et al.* fails to disclose receiving information including information of the plurality of shared devices, recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated, and changing information on the status or connected condition of the shared device.

Indeed, Applicant has found nothing in *Goshey et al.* that would teach or suggest recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means, updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the shared device managed by the other information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and displaying (a) the information on the status or the connected condition of the shared device updated by the renewal means and (b) the information of the plurality of shared devices managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Goshey et al.*, taken alone.

The Office Action cites *Stollfus et al.* as remedying the deficiencies of *Goshey et al.* *Stollfus et al.* relates to methods for resource administration. *Stollfus et al.* discusses a computer system in which a local server 118 obtains information about a plurality of resources, such as printer 116, generates an HTML page based on the obtained information, and sends the HTML page to a local client 112 for display (Figures 6 and 7).

However, nothing has been found in *Stollfus et al.* that would teach or suggest recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means, updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the shared device managed by the other information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and displaying (a) the information on the status or

the connected condition of the shared device updated by the renewal means and (b) the information of the plurality of shared devices managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means, as recited in Claim 1.

Applicant therefore submits that a combination of *Goshey et al.* and *Stollfus et al.*, assuming such combination would even be permissible, also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the *Goshey et al.* and *Stollfus et al.*, whether considered separately or in combination.

Independent Claims 9 and 17 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Goshey et al.* and *Stollfus et al.* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The rejection of independent Claims 25, 27, and 29 will now be addressed.

The aspect of the present invention as set forth in Claim 25 is an information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and for managing a plurality of shared devices. The apparatus includes management means for managing information of a plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus, obtaining means for obtaining, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or a connected condition of a plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus, and recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus has been

updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by the obtaining means. The apparatus also includes display means for displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus, in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by said management means.

For reasons substantially similar to those discussed above in connection with Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in *Stollfus et al.* that would teach or suggest recognizing which one of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by the obtaining means, and displaying (a) the information on the status or the connected condition of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus, in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and (b) information on a status or a connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by said management means, as recited in Claim 25.

For at least this reason, Applicant submits that Claim 25 is clearly patentable over *Stollfus et al.*

Independent Claims 27 and 29 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 25, and are believed to be

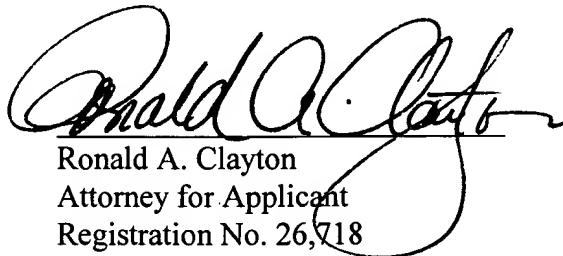
patentable over *Stollfus et al.* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 25.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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